

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4237

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2059

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, AU, UNGA

SUBJ: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

REFS: A. STATE 141885, B. STATE 141818, C. USUN 014

1. PLEASE REFER TO REFTEL C, WHICH DETAILS THE BASIC WESTERN CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH WE WORK HERE IN NEW YORK. AS WE HAVE INDICATED, THE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WHICH HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THESE CONSULTATIVE EFFORTS HAS BEEN CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THESE SAME MECHANISMS WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION WELL DURING THE FORTHCOMING 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE ONLY CHANGE THAT WE FORESEE AT THE MOMENT IS AT THE EC-9 LEVEL: THE BELGIANS WILL HAVE THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMUNITY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1977, AND WE PLAN WHEN THEY TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY ON JULY 1 TO REAFFIRM TO THEM OUR STRONG INTEREST IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY DURING THE BALANCE OF THIS YEAR. AS WITH THE DUTCH AND THE BRITISH PRESIDENCIES, WE WILL IDENTIFY THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT WITHIN USUN (POL) FOR OUR COORDINATION, AND FURTHER EXCHANGE SIMILAR DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS IN GA MAIN COMMITTEES AND OTHER FORA.

2. THE AUSTRIAN VIEWS SET FORTH IN REFTEL A ARE NOT
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ENTIRELY NEW. A PART OF THE AUSTRIAN CONCERN STEMS FROM THEIR SOMEWHAT ISOLATED POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AMONG THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND PART TO THE PERSONALITY OF AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH. AUSTRIA, SOMEHAT LIKE SPAIN OR PORTUGAL, DOES NOT FIND ITSELF NATURALLY ALIGNED WITH ANY OF THE MORE SENIOR CAUCUSES IN THE UN, SUCH AS THE EC-9 OR THE BARTON GROUP. THEY ARE HOWEVER, FULL MEMBERS

OF THE VINCI GROUP AND GROUP B ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE (IN VIENNA AND GENEVA).

3. WE DO NOT MEAN TO INFER THAT THE AUSTRIANS ARE IN ANY WAY EXCLUDED FROM DAY-TO-DAY CONSULTATIONS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE LEVEL; ON THE CONTRARY, THE AUSTRIAN MISSION IS USUALLY IN THE THICK OF ALL UN ACTIVITY, WELL INFORMED, AND GENERALLY STAFFED BY WELL-TRAINED DIPLOMATS. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT THE EC-9 CAUCUS UNDERCUT THE CLOUT AND THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF THE VINCI GROUP IN WHICH AUSTRIA PARTICIPATES DURING THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE FEWER CONTENTIOUS ITEMS THAT REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE VINCI GROUP.

4. AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY LIKED AND RESPECTED BY HIS UN COLLEAGUES, SOMETIMES PLAYS THE ROLE OF A PUSHY GADFLY, TENDING TO OVERPLAY THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRIA AND HIS OWN POSITION IN UN CIRCLES. HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE WESTERN CAUCUS IS ALSO SOMETIMES RESENTED WHEN HE PREACHES ON THE HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHIC VALUES OF HIS COUNTRY. ON ISSUES WHICH MIGHT POTENTIALLY INVOLVE WESTERN SOLIDARITY, JANKOWITSCH OFTEN SEEMS ALL TOO READY TO ASSERT AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE A FRIENDLY AND EASY RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH, AND WE OFTEN CHECK WITH HIM BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN.
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5. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE (I.E., SECOND COMMITTEE), NO FORMAL WEO CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM IS OPERATIVE. PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS (I.E., CANDIDACIES, BUREAU, ETC) ARE HANDLED IN THE GENERAL WEOG CAUCUS. VARIOUS EFFORTS TO HAVE THE WEO GROUP FUNCTION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HAVE FOUNDERED ON OBJECTIONS FROM VARIOUS MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY SWEDEN AND FRANCE. SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS (IN WHICH THE AUSTRIANS HAVE PARTICIPATED FULLY) HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY INFORMAL, BASED EITHER ON PERSONAL CONTACTS AND/OR AD HOC GROUPS OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT WEO SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE GROUP POSITIONS SIMILAR TO G-77; RATHER, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ZEALOUSLY PRESERVE THE PREROGATIVE OF NATIONAL POSITIONS. AUSTRIANS ARE AT SOMETHING OF A DISADVANTAGE IN THIS PROCESS, SINCE THEY NEITHER HAVE GEOGRAPHIC AFFILIATIONS (E.G., EC-9, NORDICS) NOR ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE CONSULTED REGULARLY (E.G., US). HOWEVER, AS INDICATED ABOVE, THEY HAVE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, AND WE ARE NOT SURE THAT JANKOWITSCH'S COMMENTS RE EXCLUSION ARE APPROPRIATE TO WORKING-LEVEL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO

CONSULT CLOSELY WITH WEO COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING AUSTRIA, ON ALL ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE SEE NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MACHINERY IN THE ECONOMIC/ SOCIAL AREA.

6. WE NOTE THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY JANKOWITSCH (REFTEL B) AND WE WILL BE SENSITIVE TO HIS NEEDS AND ATTITUDES AS WE APPROACH THE RESUMED SESSION AND THE 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. WE HAVE NOT COMMENTED HEREIN ON OUR COORDINATION WITH THE JAPANESE. SUFFICE TO SAY THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE IN NEW YORK CITY ARE EXCELLENT AT ALL LEVELS, WE SIT WITH JAPAN IN THE VINCI GROUP AND GROUP B AND CONSULT REGULARLY AT THE COMMITTEE LEVEL. THE TOTAL
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CONSULTATIVE LINK WITH JAPAN EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE PARTIAL INTERFACE WITH OUR WEO RELATIONSHIPS.
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